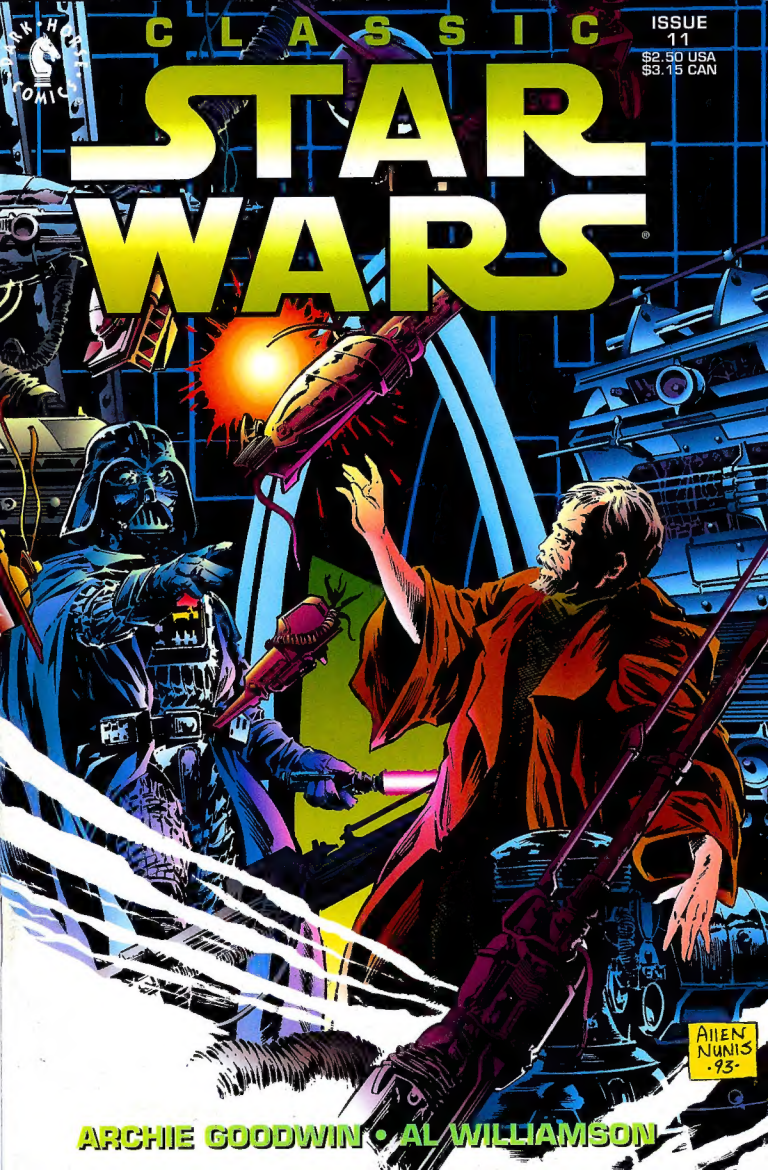




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-93-

ARCHIE GOODWIN • AL WILLIAMSON

Archie Goodwin
Writer

Al Williamson
Artist

Allen Nunis
Art Retouch

Steve Buccellato
Colorist

Allen Nunis
Cover Artist

Matthew Hollingsworth
Cover Colorist

Bob Cooper
Editor



Mike Richardson
publisher

Neil Hankerson
executive vp

Andy Karabatsos
vp of finance

Ronnie Noize
vp of sales and marketing

Mark Anderson
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Randy Stradley
creative director

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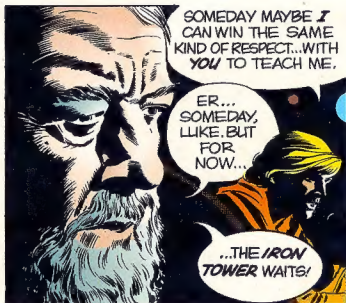
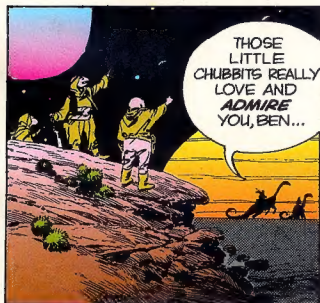
Bob Schreck
special projects manager

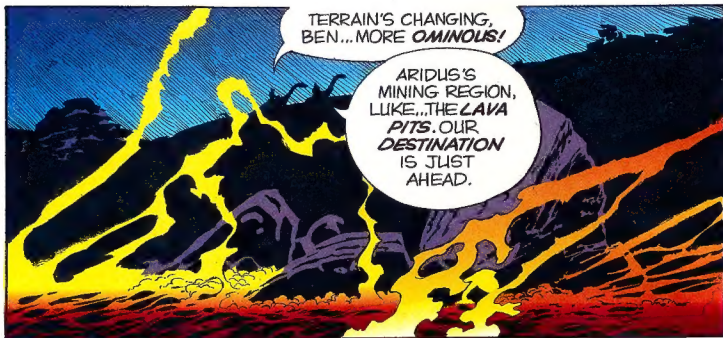
Randy Bowen
product development
manager

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WHAT HAS COME BEFORE

As the liberated Night Beast sets off to rejoin its ancient masters, Imperial troops attack Rebel weapons smugglers on the desert planet, Aridus. Word from Aridus leaks back to the Rebels about the intervention of someone appearing to be Ben Kenobi, and Luke and inadvertent stowaway C-3PO set off for the desert planet. They arrive on Aridus in the midst of an attack on an Imperial hovertrain by the native Chubbitts, and Luke insists on joining the battle. The day is saved by the ersatz Ben Kenobi, who has become something of a hero to the Chubbitts. "Ben Kenobi," however, is revealed to us to be an actor working for Darth Vader's insidious purposes — it's Vader's intent to use the actor to lure Luke to him. Luke, still unaware that he's not traveling with the real Ben Kenobi, leaves for a fateful meeting at the Iron Tower, as Vader arrives on Aridus.





WHATEVER THE OUTCOME... IT'S **GREAT** TO BE
AT YOUR SIDE AGAIN. KNOWING DARTH VADER
DIDN'T **REALLY** DESTROY
YOU ON THE DEATH
STAR...I CAN
FACE **ANYTHING!**



And...

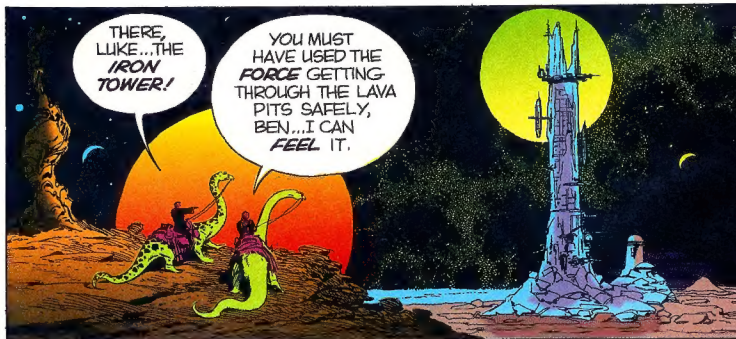
YOU'RE **NEAR**,
SKYWALKER...SOON
YOU'LL SENSE MY
PRESENCE! ONLY
YOU'LL MISTAKENLY
BELIEVE IT'S THE
FORCE RADIATING
FROM YOUR OLD
MENTOR...

...UNTIL
**TOO
LATE!**



THERE,
LUKE...THE
**IRON
TOWER!**

YOU MUST
HAVE USED THE
FORCE GETTING
THROUGH THE LAVA
PITS SAFELY,
BEN...I CAN
FEEL IT.



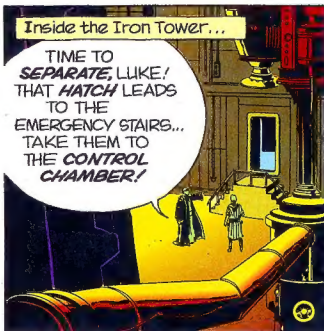
"FROM HERE ON," says the impersonator,
"THAT FEELING WILL **GROW**. WE'RE GOING **IN**!"



HURRY,
ACTOR...THIS
CONFRONTATION
WITH SKYWALKER
HAS BEEN
TOO LONG
COMING!

Inside the Iron Tower...

TIME TO
SEPARATE, LUKE!
THAT **HATCH** LEADS
TO THE
EMERGENCY STAIRS...
TAKE THEM TO
THE **CONTROL**
CHAMBER!



I'LL TAKE CARE OF THESE
DEATHTRAP MECHANISMS...
YOU PROCEED DIRECTLY
TO SABOTAGE THE
MAIN CONTROLS! AND...
BE **CAREFUL**,
YOUNGSTER!

I'M NOT
WORRIED...



...NOT
WHEN I'M
WORKING
WITH **YOU**,
BEN!

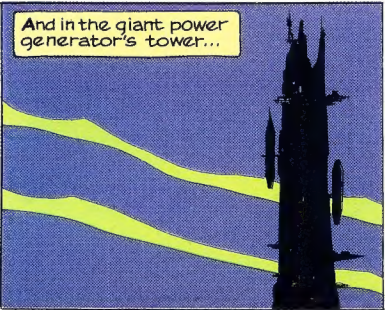


Determinedly, Luke advances up
the Iron Tower's emergency
stairs...with automated
DEATH BEAMS challenging
every step! Then...

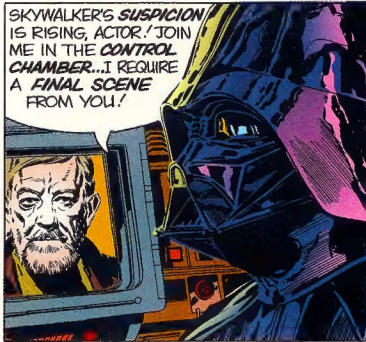
THEY'VE
STOPPED! BEN
SUCCEEDED IN
NULLIFYING THEIR
ENERGY
SOURCE!

HE'S STILL USING
THE **FORCE**...FEELS
SO **STRONG**...
ALMOST **TOO**
STRONG...**DARK**...





And in the giant power generator's tower...

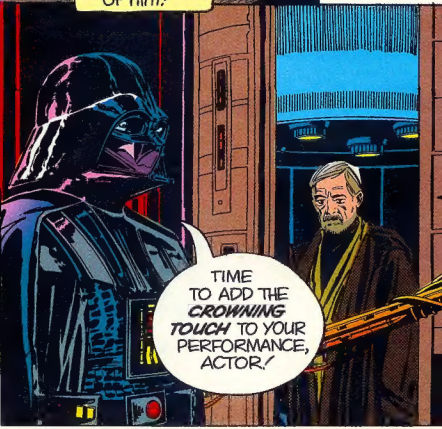


SWYKALKER'S *SUSPICION* IS RISING, ACTOR! JOIN ME IN THE *CONTROL CHAMBER*...I REQUIRE A *FINAL SCENE* FROM YOU!

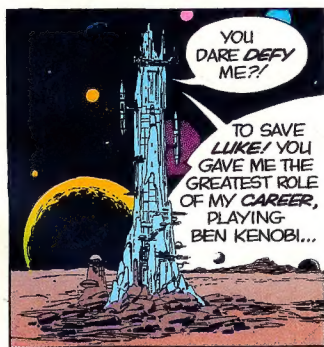
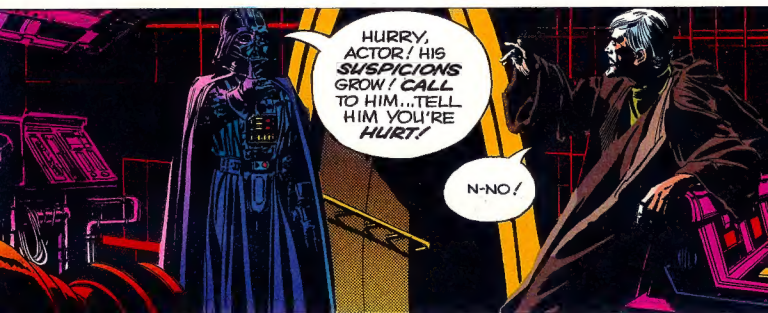


As Luke cautiously makes his way toward the Iron Tower's control chamber...

...a personnel lift carries the impersonator there *AHEAD* of him!



TIME TO ADD THE *CROWNING TOUCH* TO YOUR PERFORMANCE, ACTOR!

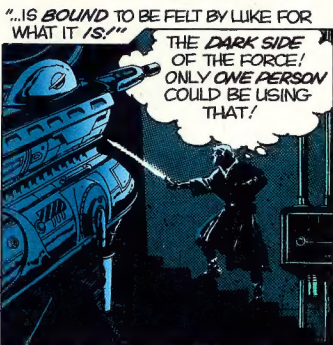




A *GESTURE* from the Lord of the Sith...and the impersonator's defiance is instantly *PUNISHED!*



F-FINALLY...YOU'VE MADE A... *MISTAKE*, LORD VADER! YOUR METHOD...OF *DISPATCHING* ME...



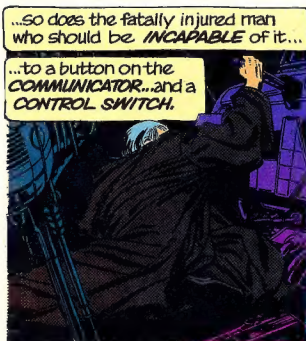
"...IS BOUND TO BE FELT BY LUKE FOR WHAT IT IS!"

THE *DARK SIDE* OF THE FORCE! ONLY *ONE PERSON* COULD BE USING THAT!



SKYWALKER'S ALERTED TO MY TRAP... I'VE GOT TO GO *AFTER* HIM! ACTOR, PRAY *DEATH* TAKES YOU BEFORE I RETURN!

But as *DARTH VADER* moves...



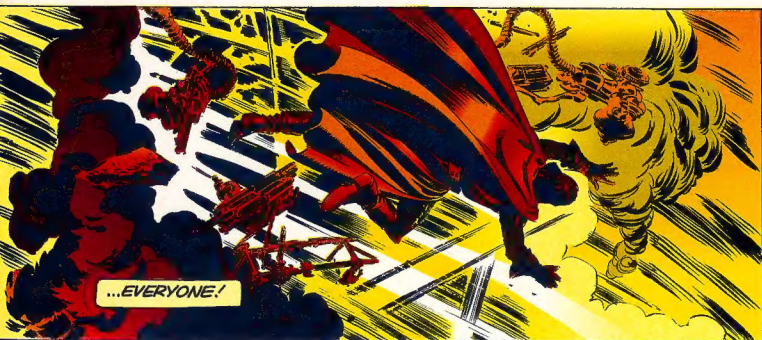
...so does the fatally injured man who should be *INCAPABLE* of it...

...to a button on the *COMMUNICATOR*...and a *CONTROL SWITCH*.

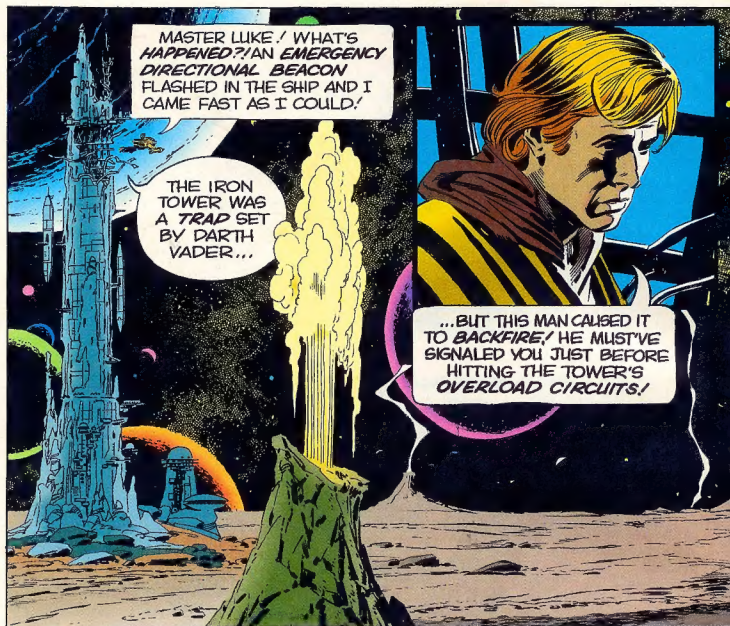


POWER OVERLOAD! The suddenly strained circuitry of the Iron Tower gives way... *EXPLOSIVELY!*

A series of blasts that seem *CERTAIN* to catch...



From the distance, Luke's ship appears... summoned by the man who now grows silent. And still.



MASTER LUKE, / WHAT'S
HAPPENED?! AN **EMERGENCY
DIRECTIONAL BEACON**
FLASHED IN THE SHIP AND I
CAME FAST AS I COULD!

THE IRON
TOWER WAS
A **TRAP** SET
BY DARTH
VADER...

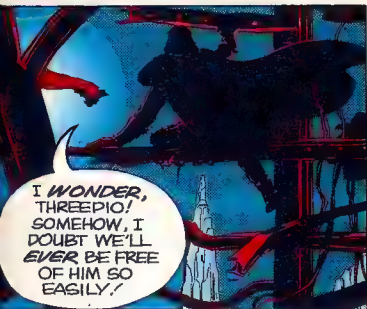
...BUT THIS MAN CAUSED IT
TO **BACKFIRE**, HE MUST'VE
SIGNALLED YOU JUST BEFORE
HITTING THE TOWER'S
OVERLOAD CIRCUITS!



THIS WAS AN
**ACTOR TRAINED TO
IMPERSONATE BEN!**
ONLY, LIVING THE ROLE
CHANGED HIM...

...WHEN THE
CHIPS WERE DOWN,
HE DID WHAT THE
REAL BEN WOULD
HAVE!

ONE THING, SIR... **LORD VADER**
SEEMINGLY PERISHED IN THE EXPLOSION!



I *WONDER*,
THREEPIO!
SOMEHOW, I
DOUBT WE'LL
EVER BE FREE
OF HIM SO
EASILY./

Meanwhile, the Rebel
Alliance high command
looks upon the
instrument which
may *DESTROY*
them!

IT'S *DARTH*
VADER'S PRIVATE
CRUISER...AND
NOTHING WE HAVE
CAN *STOP* IT./



THIS IS A *SIMULATION* BASED
ON INFORMATION GATHERED BY
LUKE SKYWALKER ON A *SPY*
MISSION DURING THE
VESSEL'S CONSTRUCTION...



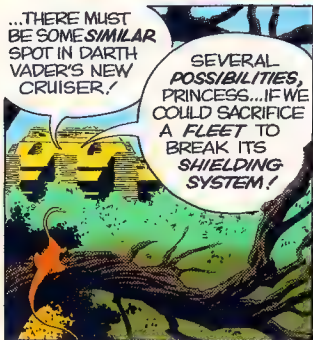
...THE COMPLETED CRAFT
WILL UNDOUBTEDLY
BE EVEN *STRONGER*!

WE
FOUND AN
EXPLOITABLE
WEAKNESS IN
THE *DEATH*
STAR,
GENERAL
DODONNA...



...THERE MUST
BE SOME *SIMILAR*
SPOT IN *DARTH*
VADER'S NEW
CRUISER./

SEVERAL
POSSIBILITIES,
PRINCESS...IF WE
COULD SACRIFICE
A *FLEET* TO
BREAK ITS
SHIELDING
SYSTEM!



GENERAL DODONNA,
WE MAY SUCCESSFULLY
RELOCATE OUR
BASE *BEFORE*
VADER'S NEW
CRUISER IS
READY!

WE MUST *PLAN* IN CASE
WE *DON'T*, MY FRIENDS...



...AND TO *FIGHT* THE DARK LORD'S MONSTER SHIP, WE *FIRST* HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO *PENETRATE* ITS SHIELD SYSTEM.

POWER GEM...



WHAT WAS THAT, PRINCESS LEIA?

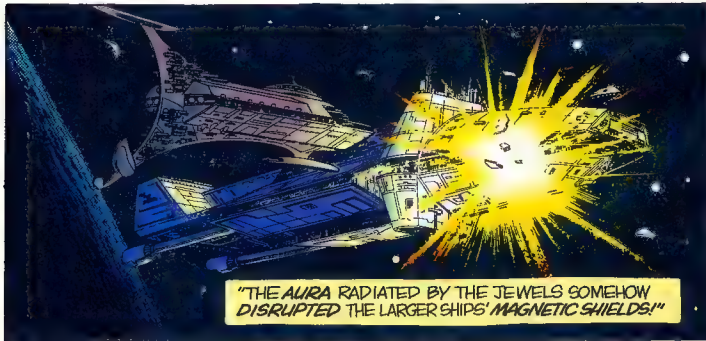
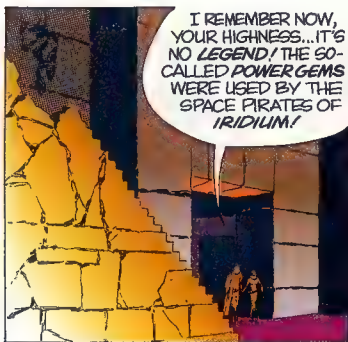
SOMETHING I ONCE HEARD MY FATHER MENTION ...WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL... BACK IN THE DAYS OF THE OLD REPUBLIC!



PERHAPS IT'S ONLY A *LEGEND*, BUT I HEARD HIM SPEAK OF SOMETHING CALLED *POWER GEMS*. THEY WERE USED BY RAIDERS OF THE REPUBLIC'S SPICE CONVOYS!



I REMEMBER NOW, YOUR HIGHNESS... IT'S NO *LEGEND*! THE SO-CALLED *POWER GEMS* WERE USED BY THE SPACE PIRATES OF *IRIDIUM*!



"THE *AURA* RADIATED BY THE JEWELS SOMEHOW *DISRUPTED* THE LARGER SHIPS' *MAGNETIC SHIELDS*!"

IF THEY CAN DISRUPT
THE *FORCE SHIELDS*,
GENERAL DODONNA...
THEY'RE *EXACTLY*
WHAT WE NEED
AGAINST DARTH
VADER'S NEW
CRUISER!

EXCEPT
JEDI KNIGHTS
SMASHED THE
PIRATE
OPERATION...



...AND THE GEMS
PERISHED WITH
THE PIRATE
SHIPS!

PERHAPS NOT *ALL*! IF
WE KNEW SOMEONE
THOROUGHLY *FAMILIAR*
WITH THE GALAXY'S
OUTLAW ELEMENT...



I'M AFRAID THE NOTION
OF LOCATING A *POWER*
GEM TO USE AGAINST
DARTH VADER'S NEW
DREADNAUGHT IS
FANCIFUL, YOUR
MAJESTY, EVEN IF
ONE ACTUALLY
STILL *EXISTS*...

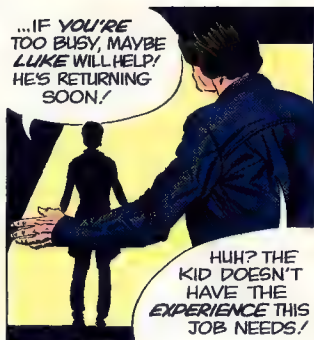
...WHO KNOWS THE
INTERGALACTIC
UNDERWORLD
WELL ENOUGH
TO PROWL THERE
AND
UNCOVER
IT?



Leia seeks out Han Solo...

WHAT?! CHEWIE
AN' ME CHASE ALL
OVER THE GALAXY
FOR SOMETHING THAT
PROBABLY DOESN'T
EXIST?!







...JUNKFORT
STATION, CHEWIE!
LOTTA SHIPS GET
ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT
AND MODIFICATIONS
HERE...

... I DOUBT
THEY KEEP
POWER GEMS
IN STOCK, BUT
IT'S SOMEWHERE
TO START!



Han and Chewie bring
the *FALCON* into one
of the outworld space
station's docking
bays...

SOLO!
DIDN'T
EXPECT TO
SEE YOU ON
JUNKFORT...

...NOT SINCE
JABBA THE HUTT
PUT A PRICE ON
YOUR HEAD!

I THOUGHT
THEY KEPT
BOUNTY
HUNTERS AWAY
FROM HERE.!



ANYONE CAN BE TEMPTED
AT JABBA'S PRICES.
WATCH YOUR BACK!



WHILE WE'RE
ASKING ABOUT **POWER**
GEMS IN THE LOCAL
CANTINA... WATCH
EVERYTHING, CHEWIE



POWER
GEMS? LIKE
THE 'OL SPACE
PIRATES OF
IRIDIUM
USED?!

YOU'RE *DREAMING*, CORELLIAN,
THEY WERE *ALL* DESTROYED WITH
THE PIRATES!

SO EVERYONE
KEEPS TELLING ME.



HEY, SOLO! OVER
HERE...I THINK WE'VE
GOT SOMETHING
FOR YOU!



EXCUSE ME, PAL..I'VE DRAWN A
BLANK WITH EVERYONE *ELSE*
IN THE CANTINA ABOUT WHAT
I'M AFTER...

...MIGHT AS
WELL SEE WHAT
THIS PAIR HAS
TO OFFER!



YOU TWO *KNOW*
SOMETHING ABOUT
WHAT I'M LOOKING
FOR?

WHY *ELSE*
CALL YOU TO
OUR BOOTH?





As a finger tightens on the trigger of the blaster aimed at Han...

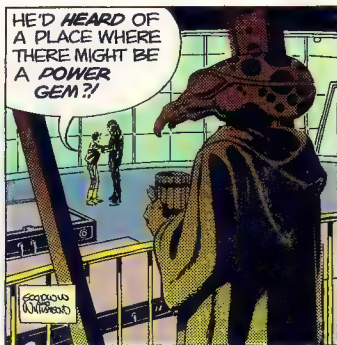


WHAT WAS THAT LITTLE TWERP AT THE BAR SAYING THAT KEPT YOU TOO SPELLBOUND TO RUSH TO MY RESCUE?

NAARAWGH!

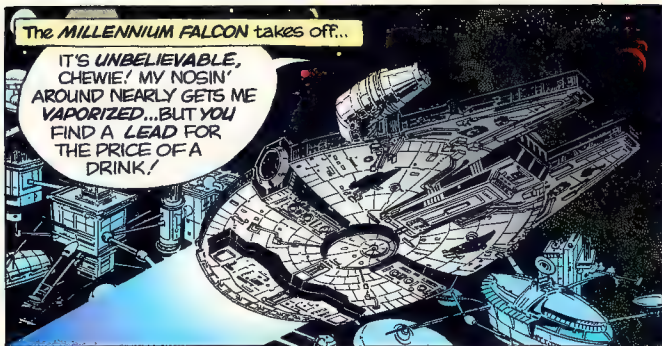


HE'D HEARD OF A PLACE WHERE THERE MIGHT BE A POWER GEM?!



The *MILLENNIUM FALCON* takes off...

IT'S **UNBELIEVABLE**,
CHEWIE! MY NOSIN'
AROUND NEARLY GETS ME
VAPORIZED...BUT YOU
FIND A **LEAD** FOR
THE PRICE OF A
DRINK!



GUESS THAT'S WHY YOU WERE TOO
ENGROSSED TO HOP TO MY AID
IMMEDIATELY AGAINST THOSE
WOULD-BE **BOUNTY HUNTERS!**

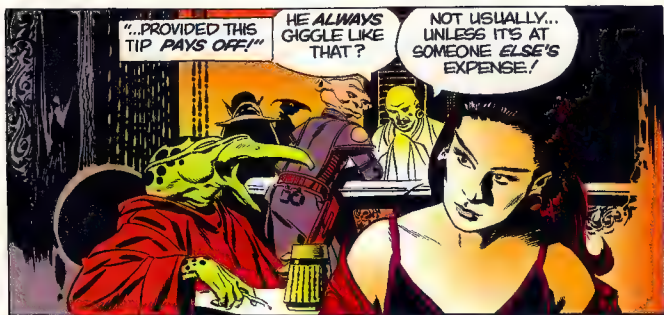
WELL, I
FORGIVE
YOU, PAL...

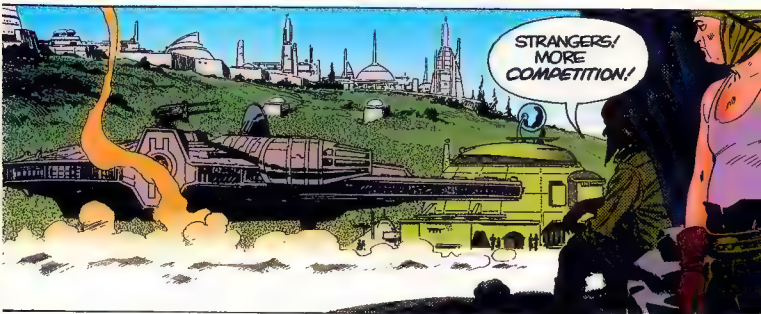
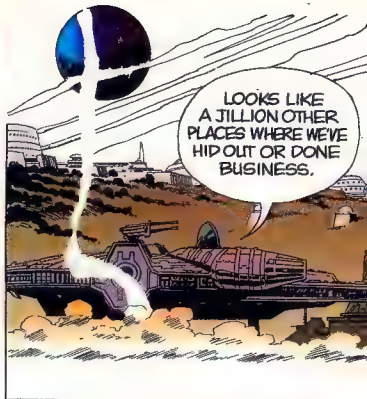


"...PROVIDED THIS
TIP **PAYS OFF!**"

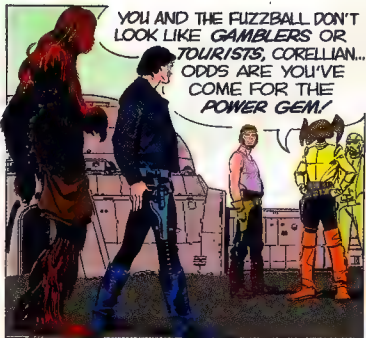
HE ALWAYS
GIGGLE LIKE
THAT?

NOT USUALLY...
UNLESS IT'S AT
SOMEONE ELSE'S
EXPENSE!





NOT THAT THESE BACKWATER PLANETS ARE TOTALLY WITHOUT ATTRACTION!

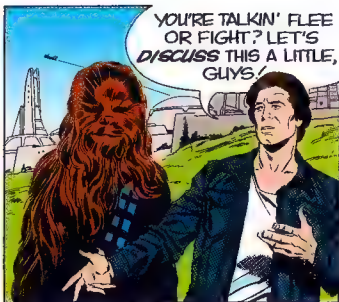


WE FIGURE
THERE'S ENOUGH
COMPETITION
ALREADY--

SO WE WAIT HERE
AT THE LANDING FIELD
TO *DISCOURAGE* ANY
NEW PROSPECTS!



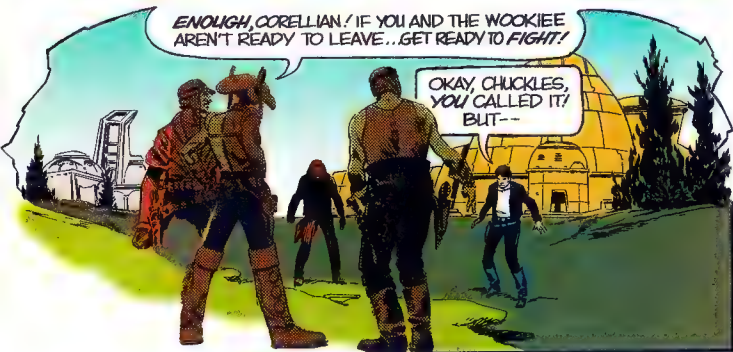
YOU'RE TALKIN' FLEE
OR FIGHT? LET'S
DISCUSS THIS A LITTLE,
GUYS!



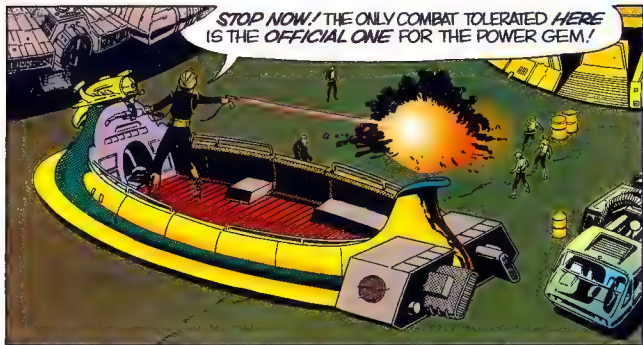
As Han speaks, he also slowly *MOVES*...

ENOUGH, CORELLIAN! IF YOU AND THE WOOKIEE
AREN'T READY TO LEAVE...GET READY TO *FIGHT*!

OKAY, CHUCKLES,
YOU CALLED IT!
BUT--

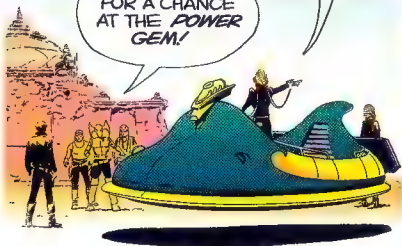


STOP NOW! THE ONLY COMBAT TOLERATED HERE
IS THE OFFICIAL ONE FOR THE POWER GEM!



YOU THREE WERE TRYING TO ELIMINATE
COMPETITION! GET OFF THE PLANET...
FAST!

WE PAID
FOR A CHANCE
AT THE *POWER
GEM!*



YOU WOULDN'T HAVE
SURVIVED *THIS!* THE
CORELLIAN MANEUVERED
SO THE *SUN* WAS IN
YOUR EYES...AND
HE AND THE WOOKIEE
HAVE YOU IN A
CROSSFIRE!



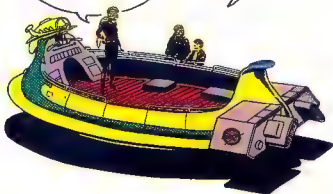
NICE TO MEET A
LADY WHO KNOWS
HER *BUSINESS*,
HUH, CHEWIE?



THEN YOU
WON'T RESIST
DOING *EXACTLY*
AS I ORDER, HAN
SOLO!

ONTO THE
FLOATER!
BOTH YOU
AND THE
WOOKIEE!

YOU
KNOW ME,
LADY?

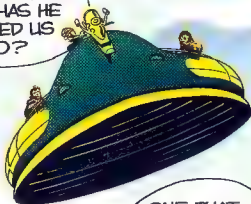


THE NAME IS *MYSTRA!*
OUR AGENT ON *JUNKFORT*
STATION SENT WORD
ABOUT YOU.

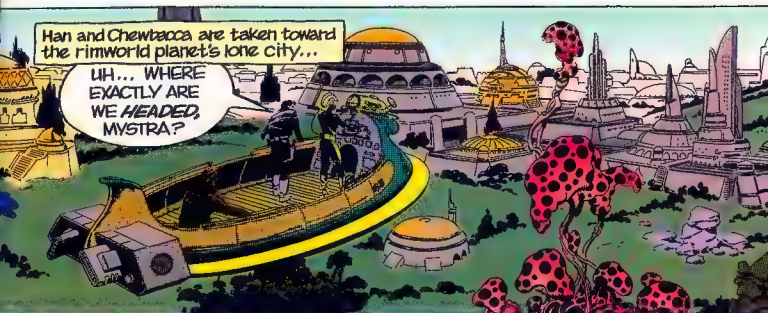
THAT WOULD
BE YOUR LITTLE
DRINKING BUDDY,
CHEWIE...

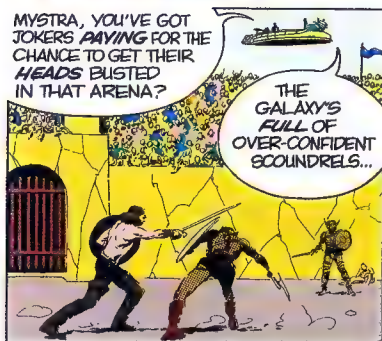


...WHAT KIND OF
MESS HAS HE
STEERED US
INTO?



ONE THAT
COULD GET
YOU WHAT YOU
SEEK...THE
*POWER
GEM!*

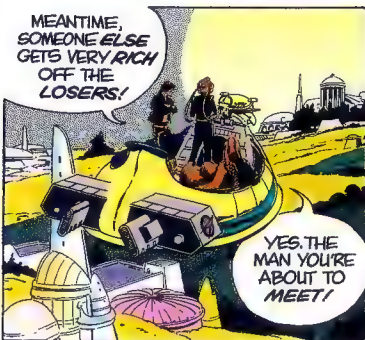




...THEY ALL EXPECT TO WIN, SOLO!
AND THE ULTIMATE WINNER GETS
THE POWER GEM!

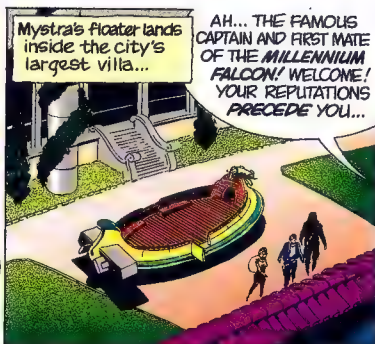


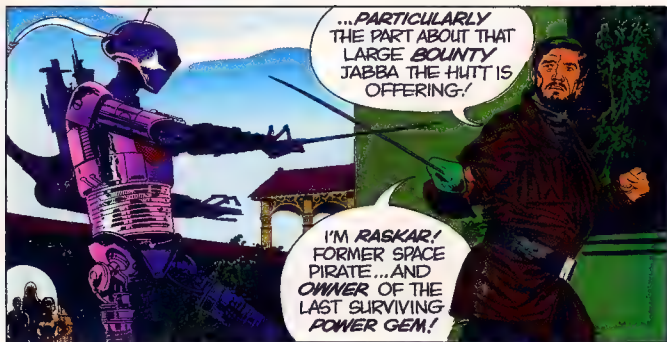
MEANTIME,
SOMEONE ELSE
GETS VERY RICH
OFF THE
LOSERS!



Mystra's floater lands
inside the city's
largest villa...

AH... THE FAMOUS
CAPTAIN AND FIRST MATE
OF THE **MILLENNIUM
FALCON!** WELCOME!
YOUR REPUTATIONS
PRECEDE YOU...





RASKAR, IF YOU BROUGHT CHEWIE AN' ME HERE FIGURING TO COLLECT ON THE HUTT'S **REWARD...**

...YOU'LL NEED MORE THAN THAT OVER-SIZED **KITCHEN UTENSIL** TO MAKE IT STICK!

YOU **MISTUDGE** ME, SOLD. I'VE LONG **ABANDONED** SPACE-PIRATE STYLE **VIOLENCE...**

...MY **SWORDPLAY'S** STRICTLY FOR **EXERCISE!** THESE DAYS, **MYSTRA** DOES ALL MY **KILLING!**

HA! I WIN AGAIN! THIS PRACTICE DROID'S PROGRAMMING WILL HAVE TO BE **UPGRADED!**

WONDERFUL EXERCISE, SOLO!
KEEPS ME YOUNG BEYOND MY
YEARS!

RASKAR, YOU
MAY RUN OUT OF
YEARS IF YOU DON'T
SAY WHY YOU
BROUGHT US
HERE!

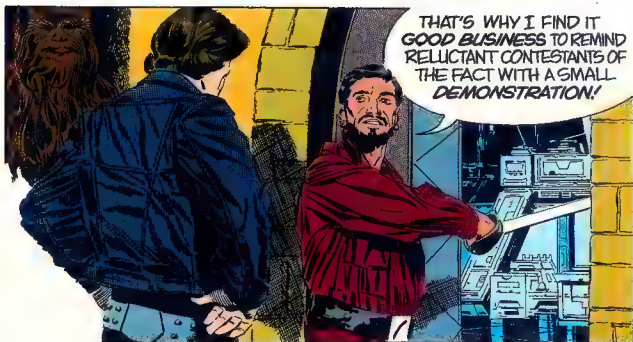


WHY, TO SHOW
YOU THE **POWER
GEM!** YOU WOULDN'T
RISK YOUR LIFE
FIGHTING IN MY ARENA
FOR A **FAKE!**

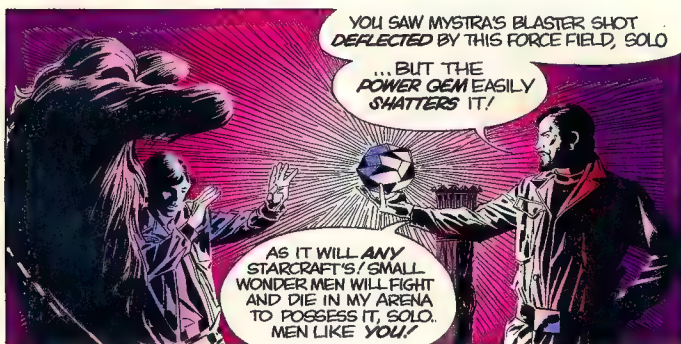
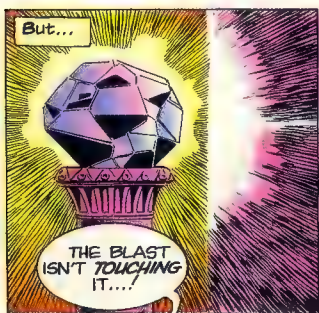


LISTEN, RASKAR... I'M NOT
SURE I'D RISK MY LIFE IN
AN ARENA FOR
ANYTHING!

THE
POWER
GEM ISN'T
JUST
ANYTHING,
SOLO!



THAT'S WHY I FIND IT
GOOD BUSINESS TO REMIND
RELUCTANT CONTESTANTS OF
THE FACT WITH A SMALL
DEMONSTRATION!



OKAY. I'M IMPRESSED. ONLY, IF IT'S THIS GOOD...

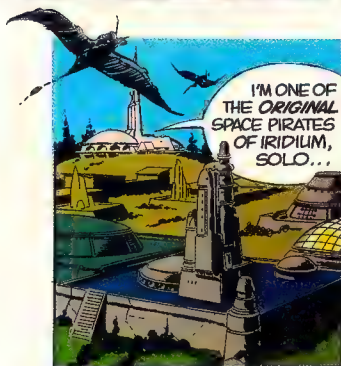
...HOW COME YOU'RE SO WILLING TO PART WITH IT?!



A GEM WITH AN AURA THAT SHATTERS *FORCE FIELDS* CAN BE PUT TO A LOT OF USES, RASKAR! MOST OF 'EM PROFITABLE IF NOT PARTICULARLY LEGAL!



I'M ONE OF THE ORIGINAL SPACE PIRATES OF IRIDIUM, SOLO...

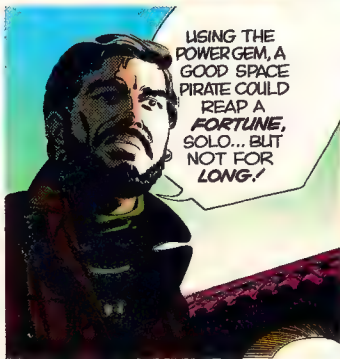


THE JEDI KNIGHTS SUPPOSEDLY DESTROYED THEM ALL!

I WASN'T ON THAT LAST, FATAL RAID. SO I ESCAPED...AND LEARNED A GREAT LESSON!



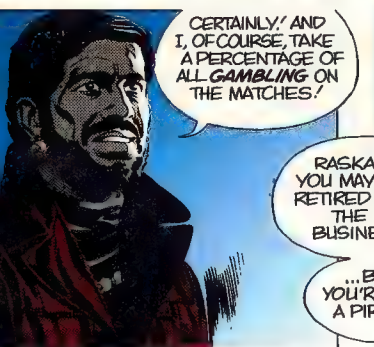
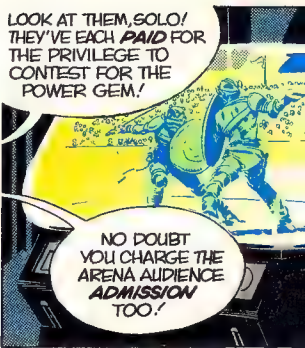
USING THE POWER GEM, A GOOD SPACE PIRATE COULD REAP A FORTUNE, SOLO... BUT NOT FOR LONG!



ITS USE ATTRACTS ATTENTION! IT BROUGHT THE JEDI KNIGHTS ON MY OLD COMRADES...

...IT WOULD BRING THE EMPIRE TODAY!

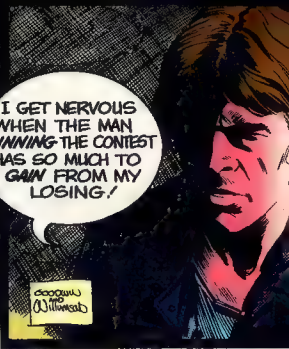






YOU'VE SEEN THE
POWER GEM IN ACTION,
SOLO...YOU KNOW THE
LEGENDS ARE **TRUE!**
HAVING DESPERATELY
CHASED ALL OVER THE
GALAXY TO **FIND**
IT...

...DON'T
TELL ME YOU
WON'T **FIGHT**
FOR IT
NOW?



I GET NERVOUS
WHEN THE MAN
RUNNING THE CONTEST
HAS SO MUCH TO
GAIN FROM MY
LOSING!

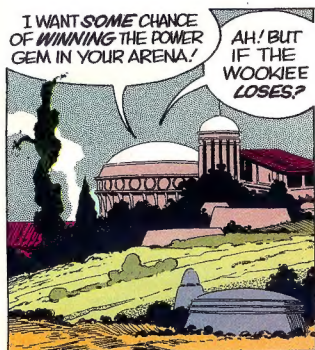
©1995
Williams



DON'T ACT **SURPRISED**, SOLO! IT'S A
FAIR OFFER! YOU'LL COMPETE FOR
THE **POWER GEM** WITHOUT
CHARGE...



...BUT I
COLLECT THE **BOUNTY**
JABBA THE
HUTT'S
OFFERING...



Business concluded... Han and his first mate depart Raskar's villa.



The adventure continues next month in **CLASSIC STAR WARS #12!**

STELLAR

10956 S.E. MAIN STREET



MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

I want to make special mention this issue of one of our noble Dark Horse staff that toils in relative obscurity: Evelyn Harris. Evelyn has been doing the bulk of the manual paste-up, as well as many miscellaneous lettering and art corrections, which are so integral to making this series of reprinted newspaper strips look like a real comic book. She has the (perhaps unenviable) task of attempting to derive my meaning out of sometimes poorly scrawled and obtuse directions for laying out the pages of this comic, and somehow *always* manages to make the right decisions in panel and balloon placement. She's actually been doing this since issue #6, and I think she finally deserves some credit for this tedious and demanding work. Thanks, Evelyn! Okay . . . on to our letters:

David Whitsett
2302 Donau Ct.
Owensboro, KY 42301

I wanted to compliment your fill-in colorist, Matthew Hollingsworth, for doing a great job on *Classic Star Wars* #7. It must be difficult to color artwork originally designed for a black-and-white newspaper strip. You've also done a great job in editing these strips into comic-book form. You had some pretty big shoes to fill since your predecessor, Anina Bennett, set a high standard of quality on the first four issues.

I'm glad the story line involving Doctor Arakkus is over. I thought it was the weakest one so far. It was obviously a filler story that had nothing to do with the Rebels' struggle against the Empire. I'm sure Mr. Goodwin had to come up with a few stories like this as filler material

since he did not know the outcome of the movies and couldn't do anything too radical that might contradict them. I much prefer the new plot involving the water planet Aquaris. I've read a lot of science fiction and I can't think of any that involved a planet that was entirely water. I'm looking forward to seeing how Mr. Goodwin deals with this original concept.

I hope the rumors are true that George Lucas is finally planning another cycle of movies. Until then, I'm glad that Dark Horse is around to keep the dream alive.

**"...please do not
overdo your *Star Wars*-
related comics
series...too much of a
good thing is... well,
too much."**



Scott Andrews
399 S. 12th St. #2
San Jose, CA 95112

I wanted to thank you, not for *Classic Star Wars* in particular, but for helping to revive an interest in *Star Wars* in general with all of your *Star Wars* comics. I was beginning to think that, with the exception of the role-playing games, no one out there even remembered the series anymore. I've grown up with the series and waited ten long years for George Lucas to continue his saga.

As to your comics, *Star Wars: Dark Empire* was spectacular, a much better sequel to the movies than are Timothy Zahn's poor excuses for

books. Tom Veitch should be commended for his story, especially the text pieces, for its ability to recapture the feel, excitement, and scope of the movies. The artwork by Cam Kennedy was competent (but the monochromatic coloring scheme per page was very distracting) and the covers were great. I, for one, wouldn't mind seeing a portfolio that reprints the covers larger.

I'm glad to see that Dark Horse is not sitting on its laurels, and immediately followed up that first success with the *Classic Star Wars* series. The (much more than) reprints are interesting side-notes in the history of *Star Wars*, and fun to read, but they rarely approach the quality of the movie series or even your own *Dark Empire* (except when comparing art; Al Williamson is as good or better than Cam Kennedy when rendering the ships and actor's faces).

Finally, I have two simple requests. One, that you please do not overdo your *Star Wars*-related comics series. This may sound strange after praising what you've done so far, but I know that too much of even a good thing is . . . well, too much. I don't want you to overdo the *Star Wars* stuff, driving it into the ground like you did with your *Aliens*- and *Terminator*-related comics. Those started out well, then petered out. Second, I think all *Star Wars* fans would *really* like to be kept abreast of what's going on at Lucasfilm concerning the next trilogy. (We don't need extended details, which you presumably don't have anyway; just a paragraph or two once in a while.) I've been hearing so many rumors lately that George Lucas is finally going to do *Star Wars* episodes #1-3, and I'd like to find out if it's true. (I've been told the

three films will be called *The Clone Conflict*, *Dark Jedi*, and *Fall of the Republic*, and that they will come out in consecutive years: 1997, 1998, and 1999. Please tell us that this is true. Thanks for listening.

Well . . . that's the first request that we've gotten that didn't include the word "more" in it. And rest assured, we will try to keep you posted on the latest goings-on from Skywalker Ranch as they become known. Meanwhile, it seems you fans out there are almost a better source of news and information than our contacts in Marin County, so keep those letters flowing.



Rich Gawel
RPO 1757
PO Box 5063
New Brunswick, NJ 08903-5063

I'm just writing to say thanks in a big way for reviving the *Star Wars* saga. Back in the spring of 1991, I was graduating from high school and getting ready for college. Just when I thought it was time to consider my childhood over, Timothy Zahn's *Heir to the Empire* came out. Of course I bought it and read and reread it within weeks of publication. Then, your *Dark Empire* series began as well, and I scrambled from comics store to comics store looking for copies. They were hot sellers! All of a sudden, my childhood obsession was back. Like everyone else, I had all of the toys and cards and newspaper clippings, nostalgic items for hyperspace trips down memory lane. But Zahn's books and your comics have changed this phenomenon of my past into an ongoing saga. Thanks for keeping a bit of my childhood alive!

The CSW series is great. It's nice to see Luke have a romantic interest other than Leia. But to be honest, there's not enough of my favorite character, Han. He's cocky,

confident, and he's seen it all, living life on the edge. I love Brian Daley's trilogy of Han's pirating adventures, so I guess you can count my vote in favor of printing the newspaper adaptation of *Han Solo at Stars' End*. The Boba Fett stories would be more than welcome also. He's probably my other favorite (seeing him in *Dark Empire* #4 was totally cool). Sure, he's a bad guy, but like Han, he's a cool customer. (Some *Star Wars* prequel theories and rumors suggest that the two are actually brothers. Hmm, I don't know about that.)

Finally, I have to add my two cents to the "next movie" rumors. The Lucasfilm Fan Club Magazine had an interview with George Lucas a few months ago. He said that preproduction should begin in 1995, and all three will be released by 2000. He wants to do them back-to-back, the way Spielberg did *Back to the Future* 2 & 3. They'll be about the Old Republic, the Clone Wars, young Ben Kenobi, the rise of the Emperor and Vader, the Jedi extermination, and the birth of Luke and Leia. Well, we will see.

P.S.: Does anyone out there know where I can get copies of the old *Star Wars* radio show?

P.P.S.: I think it's incredible how *Star Wars* is such a worldwide phenomenon. Your letter column has letters from fans across the U.S.A., Scotland, England, Denmark, Canada, Holland, and Belgium. Wow!



Let's add Norway to the list . . .

Frøde Kahrs Ormberg
Pretestien 18
5095 Ulset, Norway

Thanks a lot for continuing the comics side of *Star Wars*. Even though I'm getting close to 30, I still find great pleasure in comics. Especially comics that have a strong link to some of my addictions (like

Star Wars and James Bond).

I've seen in this column that you want people to let you know whether or not we want to see other strips than the ones currently being printed in CSW. Well, I for one would be thrilled to see Russ Manning's strips, and really any strips that have not been published outside newspapers. The only Russ Manning strip I have seen is the one page featured in *The Art of Star Wars*. So I guess I've missed a lot not reading U.S. papers, right?

What I would love to see is a huge *Star Wars* volume collecting all the original strips between two covers — but I guess I'm hoping too much, or what?

Anyway, keep 'em coming. I'll be buying.

P.S.: Even though I love your comics, I still think CSW could have been arranged better. There is still a lot of white around the panels that could have been used. On some pages I find a lot to be desired. Please try to make a great comic even greater.

We've been trying, Frode. The two elements of creating a good-looking CSW page are 1) designing creative page layouts that make the most effective use of existing art and dialogue, being handled, of course, by ye editor and the aforementioned Evelyn Harris, and 2) the judicious addition of new art, currently being provided by Allen Nunis, used to extend the existing newspaper strip panels. We've definitely gotten better at this as the series has progressed. How do you think we're doing lately?



Next time, hopefully, I'll have some good news on what will come after this current series of *Classic Star Wars* strips. Until then . . .
— Bob Cooper



DCP

PRESENTS A
SCAN BY

DARTH SCANNER

*Leeching leads to the Dark Side of the Force.
A good Jedi buys comics and supports the industry!*